



Montgomery County Council

From the office of Councilmember Nancy Floreen

News Release

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COUNCILMEMBER FLOREEN INTRODUCES RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH SAFE SIDEWALKS/GOLDEN SHOVEL AWARD

To Recognize Individuals' Exemplary Efforts in Clearing Ice and Snow from Sidewalks

With a Friday forecast of more snow in the offing, Councilmember Nancy Floreen today introduced legislation in the Council to recognize those County individuals whose generous hard work in clearing sidewalks of snow and ice has benefited others.

Dubbed the "SAFE Golden Shovel Award Program" – SAFE equaling "Sidewalks Are For Everyone" – nominations for this year would be due to the Council by March 15 with awards to be presented by March 30.

"This award is intended to recognize those individuals who have gone 'above and beyond' the call of duty in helping their neighbors to clear ice and snow from County sidewalks," said Councilmember Floreen, who chairs the Council's Transportation and Environment Committee.

"We all have a civic duty to pitch in and help. Our seniors, our schoolchildren, our disabled community, and those who walk to work
(more...)"

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or use mass transit depend on cleared sidewalks. It's a matter of convenience and public safety – and a critical piece for improving transportation in the County.”

In April, 2001, the County Council passed into law legislation to require County residents to clear ice and snow from sidewalks within 24 hours of a snowfall, with strong support from seniors, families with schoolchildren, and the disabilities community. Similar regulations have already been in effect for many years in Rockville, Gaithersburg, and Takoma Park, as well as in Prince Georges and Howard counties and in the District of Columbia.

“By recognizing those who have gone out of their way to help their neighbors, I hope we also highlight the need for everyone to pitch in a little so we can all have a big benefit,” said Floreen. “As with our seatbelt laws, clearing sidewalks of ice and snow is a good idea because it contributes to making all our families just that much safer. It just makes sense.”

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